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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

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THERE are certain follies and impertinencies, which people of good ſenſe and good nature are every day guilty of, and which are only conſidered by them as things of courſe, and of too little conſequence for palliation or apology.

WHOEVER is a frequenter of public aſſemblies, or joins in a party at cards in private families, will give evidence to the truth of this complaint. I am, for my own part, a lover of the game of Whiſt, and ſhould oftener be ſeen in thoſe places where it is played for trifles, if I was not offended at the manners of many of my friends.

friends. How common is it with ſome people, at the concluſion of every unſucceſsful hand of cards, to burſt forth into ſallies of fretful complaints of their own amazing ill-fortune, and the conſtant and invariable ſucceſs of their antagoniſts! They have ſuch excellent memories, as to be able to recount every game they have loſt for ſix months ſucceſſively, and yet are ſo extremely forgetful at the ſame time, as not to recollect a ſingle game that they have won. Or if you put them in mind of any extraordinary ſucceſs that you have been witneſs to, they acknowledge it with reluctance, and aſſure you upon their honours, that in a whole twelve-month's play, they never roſe winners but that once.

But if theſe Growlers (a name which I ſhall always call the men of this claſs by) would content themſelves with giving repeated hiſtories of their own ill-fortune, without making invidious remarks upon the ſucceſſes of others, the evil would not be ſo great. Indeed, I am apt to impute it to their fears, that they ſtop ſhort of the groſſeſt affronts; for I have ſeen in their faces ſuch rancour and inveteracy, that nothing but a lively apprehenſion of conſequences could have reſtrained their tongues.

Happy would it be for the ladies if they had the ſame conſequences to apprehend: for, I am ſorry to ſay it, I have met with female——I will not ſay Growlers: the word is too harſh for them; let me call them Fretters, who with the prettieſt faces, and the livelieſt wit imaginable, have condeſcended to be the jeſt and diſturbance of a whole company.

In faſhionable life, indeed, where every one is acting behind the maſk of good-breeding, and where nature is never ſeen to peep out but upon very extraordinary occaſions,

caſions, frequent convulſions of the features, fluſhings ſucceeded by paleneſs, twiſtings of the body, fits of the fidgets, and complaints of immoderate heat, are the only ſymptoms of ill-fortune. But if we travel eaſtward from St. James's, and viſit the territories of my good lord-mayor, we ſhall ſee nature ſtript of her maſquerade, and hear gentlemen and ladies ſpeaking the language of the heart.

FOR the entertainment of polite life, and becauſe polite life is ſometimes a little in want of entertainment, I ſhall ſet down a converſation that paſſed a few nights ago, at an Aſſemblée in Thames-ſtreet, between two FRETTERS at a Whiſt-table; one of which had a beautiful daughter of eighteen years of age leaning upon her mother's chair.

" FIVE trumps, two honours, and loſe four by " cards! But I believe, Madam, you never loſt a game " in the whole courſe of your life.

" NOW and then, madam.

" NOT in the memory of your daughter I believe: " and miſs is not ſo extremely young neither. Clubs " are trumps———Well! if ever I play again!——— " You are three by cards, madam———

" AND two by honours. I had them in my own " hand.

" I beg your pardon, madam; I had really forgot " whoſe deal it was. But I thought the cloven-footed " gentleman had left off teaching. Pray, madam, will he " expect more than one's ſoul for half a dozen leſſons?

" YOU are pleaſed to be ſevere, madam; but you " know I am not eaſily put out of temper. What's " the trump?"

I was extremely pleaſed with the cool behaviour of this lady, and could not help whiſpering to her daughter,

ter, "You have a ſweet-tempered mamma, miſs. "How happy would it be if every lady of her acquain- "tance was ſo amiably diſpoſed!" I obſerved that miſs bluſhed and looked down; but I was ignorant of the reaſon, till all at once her mamma's good fortune changed, and her adverſary, by holding the four honours in her own hand, and by the aſſiſtance of her partner, won the game at a deal.

"AND now, madam, cried the patient lady, is it "you or I who have bargained with the devil? I declare "it upon my honour, I never won a game againſt you "in my life. Indeed I ſhould wonder if I had, unleſs "there had been a curtain between you and your part- "ner. But one has a fine time on't indeed! to be always "loſing, and yet always to be baited for winning! I "defy any one to ſay that I ever roſe a winner in my "born days. There was laſt ſummer at Tunbridge! "Did any human creature ſee me ſo much as win a "game? And aſk Mr. A, and Sir Richard B, and dean "C, and lord and lady D, and all the company at Bath "this winter, if I did not loſe two or three guineas every "night at half crown Whiſt for two months together. "But I did not fret and talk of the devil, madam; no, "madam; nor did I trouble the company with my "loſings, nor play the after-game, nor ſay provoking "things——No, madam; I leave ſuch behaviour "to ladies that——

"LORD! my dear, how you heat yourſelf! You "are abſolutely in a paſſion. Come, let us cut for "partners."

WHICH they immediately did; and happening to get together, and to win the next game, they were the beſt company, and the civileſt people I ever ſaw.

MANY

MANY of my readers may be too ready to conceive an ill opinion of theſe ladies; but I have the pleaſure of aſſuring them, from undoubted authority, that they are in all other reſpects very excellent people, and ſo remarkable for patience and good-humour, that one of them has been known to loſe her huſband, and both of them their reputations, without the leaſt emotion of concern.

TO be ſerious upon this occaſion, I have many acquaintance of both ſexes, who though really good-natured and worthy people, are violating every day the laws of decency and politeneſs by theſe outrageous ſallies of petulance and impertinence.

I know of no other reaſon for a man's troubling his friends with the hiſtory of his misfortunes, but either to receive comfort from their pity, or advantage from their charity. If the GROWLER will tell me that he reaps either of theſe benefits by diſturbing all about him; if he will aſſure me of his having raiſed compaſſion in a ſingle breaſt, or that he has once induced his adverſary to change hands with him out of charity, I ſhall allow that he acts upon principles of prudence, and that he is not a moſt teazing, ridiculous and contemptible animal.

I would not be underſtood to hint at gaming in this paper. I am glad to find that deſtructive paſſion attacked from the ſtage, and wiſh ſucceſs to the attempt. Nor do I condemn the cuſtom of playing at cards for ſmall ſums, in thoſe whoſe tempers and circumſtances are unhurt by what they loſe. On the contrary, I look upon cards as an innocent and uſeful amuſement; calculated to interrupt the formal converſations and private cabals of large companies, and to give a man ſomething

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